

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 2, 2006 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132(a). Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (US, 5,806,115). Claims 1-3, 5 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hargin (US 388,037). Claims 6-7, 12-14, 17 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 4, 15, 16 and 18 are withdrawn from consideration.

In this paper, the specification is amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner. Claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite the limitations of allowable claims 17 and 19, respectively. Claims 17 and 19 are canceled without prejudice for presentation in a separate continuation application. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 and 18 remain in the application.

Insofar as claims 1 and 8 are rewritten to include the limitations of allowable claims 17 and 19, respectively, they are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-3 and 5-14 are similarly believed to be in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency from one of claims 1 or 8.

Applicant notes that the amendments to claims 1 and 8 are made solely for the purpose of securing rapid allowance of the application and should not be construed as an admission with respect to the merits of the rejections set forth in the office action.

Furthermore, as noted by the Examiner, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or

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Examiner: Hewitt, James M, Art Unit 3679
In response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2006

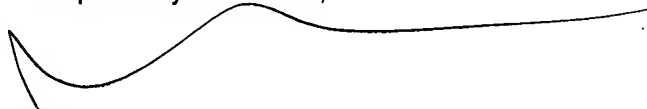
Date: October 31, 2006
Attorney Docket No. 10111394

otherwise include all the limitations of the generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.
Withdrawn claim 4 depends from claim 1, while withdrawn claims 15, 16 and 18 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 8. Thus, on the allowance of claims 1 and 8, Applicant respectfully requests the consideration of these claims. Applicant further submits that claims 4, 15, 16, and 18 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from either claim 1 or 8.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so.

Respectfully submitted,



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